



# LEE HOLLOWAY

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## MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE DECISION WILL HURT MENTAL HEALTH CARE

**Milwaukee, WI** – Milwaukee County Executive Lee Holloway released the following statement after the Personnel Committee voted to lay over until April a decision on a new salary for the vacant Behavioral Health Administration (BHD) administrator position:

“It is extremely disappointing that the Personnel Committee failed to approve this. This will hurt our efforts to move away from the obsolete mental health care model currently in place at BHD.

“We need a major transformation of our mental health services. We’ve heard that message loud and clear from County Supervisors, mental health advocates, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and others. A key step in this process is the hiring of an experienced mental health administrator. With today’s action in the Personnel Committee, we have taken a step backward.

“I inherited a vacancy in this position, and I am doing my best to fill it with an experienced individual who can do a good job. Just as many in the private sector already know, for specialized positions such as this, you have to pay a competitive salary to recruit qualified candidates.

“I am putting Milwaukee County on notice. With today’s vote, Supervisors Patricia Jursik, Mark Borkowski, Lynne De Bruin, Jim “Luigi” Schmitt, Joseph Rice and Joe Sanfelippo have hampered our efforts to get a qualified administrator in place quickly. This delay hurts the patients we are trying to help most.”

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